F. Van Ulerson
July 15 1889

bFAx 372.101

Hoboken N. Jersey -
25. 10th Street
15th July 89 -

William Brewster Esqre
Cambridge. Mass -

Dear Sir -

Last Saturday returning to the above address from Ithaca N.Y. where I had been doing some work for Prof H S Williams of the Cornell University. I happened to call on the Express office and when I mentioned my name they asked me if I expected a parcel from Cambridge. after some ~~enquiries~~ they handed me your parcel with a water colour drawing enclosed - I went to day

to see Professor Allen of the Museum of Nat History New York to ~~a~~ ask him if Prof Allen perhaps knew from whom the drawing came and I was told that you had been inquiring about the delay of said drawing, I ~~w~~ now write to you to tell you that the drawing is safe in my hands and am now awaiting your instructions or wishes, and shall be very glad to hear from you, no doubt your letter concerning the drawing has also been miscarried,

I remain
Dear Sir
Yours very respectfully

F. von Iterson.

F. Van Heusen

July 19, 1889

Hoboken N. J.
25. 10th Street
19th July 89

William Brewster Esqre
Cambridge. Mass.

Dear Sir!

Your letter of the 18th to hand.

300 copies printed in 12 & 13 colours $140.00
" " " " black, coloured by hand. $130.00
by a greater number of copies they get cheaper, as 600 copies would only be 170 Dollars or 30 Dollars more for 300 more copies. of course the fewer there are printed the better they are, they are all hand printed.

I send you a few specimens of my work from Watercolor drawings by Mr J. G. Heulemans the famous Artist

hoping to hear from you without
much delay either favourable
or otherwise,

I remain
Dear Sir
Yours very respectfully
F. von Iterson.

if you are decided to have the
work done kindly let me know
how many plates or subjects there
are - if there are a goodly number
I would venture to propose to
have the work printed and lithographed
by me in London. Any as I would be
able to get it ~~printed~~ cheaper and by
people who understand the nature
of the work and also I would have
the benefits of Mr Beulemans Counsil,
I only mention it for your conside,
ration! I must also mention
that hand colouring takes a terrible
long time, and I have also not
the means to employ assistants
and of course to do the colouring
myself alone it would take me to
the rest of my sojourn on this Earth,
which would not suit the book -

my price is based on the supposition
that there would be at least 5 plates
or subjects

and formerly tried assistants, because not every Litho artist understands the important nature of the work, the samples I have send you are all printed in colours, the large plates are for Sir Walter Buller's Birds of New Zealand, and every body that knows has said it to be the finest book ever published, and although expensive, Sir Walter has made a £1000 sterling clear profit by it, good work will always find a market, besides the satisfaction to the Author of presenting to the world something worth having — Could I but persuade you to move sooner in this matter as you will find what a time it takes before everything is started, and I admit that the work would be very welcome to me, and would keep myself open for your service I have been on the look out since

Hoboken. N. Jersey
25. 10th Street
23d July 89.

William Brewster Esqre
Cambridge. Mass.

Dear Sir!

Your favor of the 22d Inst: to hand,

300 copies of each plate printed in black and coloured by hand cost 130 Dollars but each additional 100 copies of each plate cost 35 Dollars therefore 600 copies of each plate printed, lettered, and coloured by hand cost 235 Dollars, while 600 copies of each plate printed, ~~lettered~~ in colors, lettering etc cost only 170 Dollars and should you wish ~~extra~~ more copies they get even cheaper — besides more dispatch, less worry, and more égalité

I am afraid that I am not sufficiently
of a letter writer to explain why
this is, I could do so perfectly
orally - but I will endeavor to
explain at the best of my ability.
When once all the stones are drawn
viz the 13 colours, each colour has
a different stone and when a perfect
proof is passed, it goes in the hand
of the printer and he has but to follow
the approved of proof and to a certain
extent the production of each plate
goes mechanically, and colour printing
has reached now almost perfection,
is colouring by hand I have to draw
the drawing in black only alone this is printed
once of course, but then each black
impression has to be coloured by hand
and this requires a great amount of
tedious labour and acquired skill
especially in a book of the high
quality yours should be, and for
such work I would require first
to train a staff of intelligent men,
that have at least a taste for color
and they are not so easily to be found,
unless I happened to fall on a colony
of starved out artists, ~~etc~~ ~~would~~
those might be found in Italy, but
fortunately in this country I would
have to search a long time, You will
pardon my trying to be humorous -
but be this as it may, I would
like to call your attention that
a work of such extent as you
intent to create, the amount of
labor is great and it takes me
at least 3 weeks to draw one plate
so you would find that a years
constant application to yours plates
no more than 16 plates would be
ready, unless I would be supplied
with plenty of original drawings
then I could engage some skilful

some time to get something substantially to do, I could refer you to Professor Allen of the Nat. Hist Museum in New-York; he knows how I have already been busy with giving estimates etc etc but up till now no substantial result.

of course such a great number of plates would make a difference in reducing the price a little but really taken every thing together the prices are just on a very moderate calculation, as it is with the view to give a superior article, I have no doubt that the printers would try to reduce the price a bit. if such a number of plates is decided upon, my share I assure you Sir is but a humble living out of it - but I should all the same be glad to get it -

F. Van Iterson

July 23, 1889

I have i believe answered all the points in your letter, much of course should have to be arranged yet en détail. the samples I have sent you I am not in want of just now, but they are out of a few I kept - so please to treat them kindly - as they are of value to me, hoping to hear from you again at your earliest convenience

I remain

Dear Sir

Yours very respectfully

F. Van Iterson.

make it worth his while,
Mr Van Iterson
Mr Keulemans it is generally admitted
is ~~the foremost~~ July 30, 1889.
ornithological artist
in the world - he is not only a true
and wonderful delineator but very
rapid, and if you should engage
him he would supply you with
many original drawings, and drawings
that in time to come will fetch
double their value, as they are in
their line Master pieces - he is
rather curious to visit this country,
he has travelled much in Africa etc
but was never here, and as he is well
disposed toward me would come
also if it would further my interests
or if you otherwise wished him to
furnish you with drawings I can
send you his address, or through
Mr P. L. Sclater, the Secy of the
Zoological gardens of London, you
could acquaint him with your wishes
the specimens he could find at the
Museum of Kensington, through

Hobaken N. Jersey
25. 10th Street
30th July 89

William Brewster Esqre
Cambridge. Mass.

Dear Sir!

Your favour of the 26th inst
to hand.

I do not know how many
copies you intend to have struck off
or printed, viz: how large the Edition
will be, perhaps 600 or ~~800~~?
When once I have finished the plate
and you has passed the proof, as
of course I would submit to you
of each plate proofs - in case
some slight alteration or any kind
of correction should occur, this
must be done before the Edition

is printed, then they (the printers) can furnish you 600 or more copies of each plate monthly, but while the work is in hand of course several plates would be ready and they can put them on several presses, so there is no delay, of course all these matters should have to be arranged with the printer and on black and white so as to keep him to his contract which of course he would keep to his own interest, as the work would be given to a first rate house — of course it is better to give them plenty or at least a reasonable amount of time as some colours require time to dry, at least it secures better work — in common class work that generally is hurried up they put what is called Dry in the colours, this prevents sticking of the plates to one and other or the tissue paper put between when rolling from the press, but this dry dulls and fades the colours, so natural drying is far better for to retain the brilliancy of the colours

I comprehend fully that on a work of such magnitude as your book really is, much and mature reflection and considering is requisite, ~~and~~ ~~if~~ any apparent carelessness or perhaps impatience was pardonable on account of my peculiar situation and uncertainty in which I have been placed for some time past. I will abide cheerfully however, and await your pleasure —

allow me to mention that when I left England last year Mr Keulemans told me that he was willing to come to America for a short period to do original drawings, should any Author

Mr Bowler Sharp.

I do not want to leave one stone unturned, and trust my suggestions do not annoy you – I only hope that ultimately it will lead to the possible or probable result of securing to me the work to which I would devote all my care and skill, so as to help in producing a master piece of modern illustration, a book that would eclipse every one published up till now –

I conclude with recommending myself to your further kind consideration

and remain

Dear Sir

Yours very respectfully

F. van Iterson.

H. Van Ilteren
Jany. 22. 1880

Philadelphia Pa.
256 N. 9th Str
Jan 22d 80.

William Brewster Esqre
Cambridge. Mass.

Dear Sir.

In your letter to me dated Aug 27. 79. you mentioned that Mr Ridgway was making some drawings for you which you would have put on stone this winter I would be glad if you were still of the same mind to have about this work as I will shortly have time to undertake some new work, I feel sure that should you intend to publish my plates, that you would entrust me with your work having your assurance to that effect. and having given myself so much trouble to solicit your patronage. no doubt Mr Ridgway received the drawing back untouched according to our instructions in perfect safety. my samples which you returned came also to hand but much poorer in condition so I had send them to you. I suppose the express or post had been handling them

pretty roughly - they were
quite spoiled -

May I ask you the favour
of handing inclosed card
to Professor A. Agassiz -
and should this Gentleman
wish to have my address
would you be so kind as to
give it to him - I would have
liked to ~~[illegible]~~ deliver this
introduction to him myself
but I see for the present no
opportunity sufficiently
promising to risk the expense
of travelling to Boston -

I hope Dear Sir that you
are still contemplating
the work we corresponded
about last year, even if
not on such an extensive
scale - I have been nursing
the hope that you had not
quite abandoned the project.

I remain
Dear Sir
Yours respectfully
F. Von Stein.

F. van Iterson
Oct. 5 - 1891

Philadelphia P.a.
N.W. Cor 4th & Tioga sts
Oct. 5th 91 -

W. Brewster Esqre
Riedesel Avenue
Cambridge. Mass -

Dear Sir!

In answer to Mr Denton enquiry about the 2 original drawings by Mr Ridgway of Whippoorwill and Owls, I beg to inform You that I forwarded these drawings together with the proof copies to Prof. J. A. Allen in the month of June, and suppose they are still in his possession.

I trust that You received the 4 drawings, of the Cardinal

Rail, humming Bird &c.
Further -

availing myself of the opportunity of recommending myself anew to your further favours.

I remain,
Dear Sir
Yours very respectfully,

F. Van Iterson.

F. van Ilterson
Dec-22-1891

Philadelphia Pa.
242. Chester street
22d December 1891

W. Brewster Esqre
Riedesel Avenue
Cambridge. Mass.

Dear Sir.

I have sent you a proof of the plate for the January number of the Auk and also 4 proofs of the Bird of Birds which I lithographed for you some months ago.

I send these proofs for your final examination as I really think that the work is good.

I say this in self defence as I regret very much to think that you are not satisfied in spite of my endeavours to do the work as correct and nice as was in my

power. in the hope that I might be favoured with some more of your work,

May I ask you to consider my application for further work, that is, should you intend to have more plates Lithographed, in your letter of last day you mentioned that you might perhaps give me 2 more sets to do?

I have shown these black impressions to Mr Ridgway the last time I was in Washington and he said they were very good. I am doing all I can to make a living, but work is so scarce, that it would be a very great benefit to me if you would favour me with some more plates to do.

if you do not intend to have any more plates Lithographed for the present of course that would settle it, and I need not live in expectation. so a few words from you would oblige

Yours very respectfully

F. Tom Stevens.

F. van Hersom.
Jany. 5. 1891.

Philadelphia Pa.
256 N^th 9th Street.
Jan 5th 1891.

Mr. Shelley M. Denton
Brewster's Museum
Cambridge. Mass.

Dear Sir.

I have received Mr. Brewster's esteemed favour, also the water colour drawing-

in reply would state that to give an Estimate of cost, it is necessary for me to know the number of copies Mr. Brewster intends to have printed in black only, also size of paper, and if any lettering (which has to be engraved) is to go on plate. (Name of Bird etc).

as to length of time it will

take, this depends chiefly on the printer, the order being so small he may not give it his immediate attention, but if he did, it would take 3 weeks - or perhaps less -

permit me a suggestion?
if Mr. Brewster could manage to have 2 or 4 subjects lithographed at the same time, it would be more advantageous to all concerned that is, it would be comparatively cheaper for Mr. Brewster, and more remunerative for me and printer, Mr. Brewster can rely upon the work to be first class -
at any rate please ~~send~~ let me know how large the Edition is to be etc.

I remain
Dear Sir
Yours very truly
F. Van Iterson.

p.s.
allow me to add that the printing House which occasionally does the printing for me, is a good and reliable House and their charges are much below the New-York houses, I therefore could give a much lower estimate on colour work, than what I gave 2 years ago when corresponding with Mr. Brewster regarding plates of the Birds of New-England.

F. van Iterson.
Jany. 12. 91.

Philadelphia Pa.
256. N. 9th Street
12th Jan 91.

Mr. Shelley H. Denton.
Brewster's Museum
Cambridge Mass.

Dear Sir!

Herewith I enclose Estimate to Lithographing and Printing of the Plates of Birds Mr. W. Brewster contemplates to have reproduced; I trust that the prices are satisfactory, and assure Mr. Brewster that Should he favour me with his Esteemed orders that I will do all to ensure the best of results.

I remain,
Dear Sir,
Yours very truly,
F. van Iterson.

Philadelphia P.a.
Jan 12th 91-

To. W. Brewster Esq.
Cambridge. Mass:

Estimate to Drawing on Stone. Lettering and Printing of Plates of Birds from Watercolour drawings by J.L. Ridgway. Size of Paper 8 3/8 by 10 6/8.

350. Copies of 1 Plate in Black	$ 65.00
500. " " " " " " " "	70.00.
350. Copies of 4. Plates in Black (1400)	135.00
500. " " " " " " " (2000)	145.00.
350. Copies of 1 Plate in 12 Colours	110.00
500. " " " " " " " " "	125.00.
350. Copies of 4. Plates in 12 Colours (1400)	300.00
500 " " " " " " " " (2000)	325.00.

F. van Ilersoro.
Feby. 3. 1891.

Philadelphia Pa.
256 W. 9th Street
Feb 3rd 91

Mr Shelley W. Denton
Brewsters Museum
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Sir.

Your Esteemed favor of Jan 30th to hand, also the 3 drawings in perfect order.

I enclose a letter from Mr Kettlelamp, Painter, N.W. Corner of 4th and Arch Street, a House noted for its good work and reliability, will you kindly acknowledge his communication as he does the paying part to my share of the work so as to make it one bill after the work is delivered

before we print the Edition we will send you proofs, etc, please send me the lettering to go on, as we would like to print this at the same time out - proofs. I enclose a specimen of letter for your approval,

at the same time if you are particular to a certain paper please send me a sample, but you may be sure that we will use very excellent paper in any case.

I shall give the plates my best attention so as to be sure of your further orders.

Remain,
Dear Sir
Very truly Yours
F. Von Stetson.

F. van Hersow
March. 5. 1891.

Philadelphia Pa.
256 N.th 9th Street
March 5th 91.

Mr Shelley W. Denton.
Brewsters Museum.
Cambridge Mass.

Dear Sir!

I enclose sketch of lettering for your approval as to relative size of letters and arrangement. and shall be glad if you will be so kind to return same at your earliest convenience

I have been delayed on account of my having some work in hand which I had to finish, but I am now entirely free and have taken the Plates for Mr Brewsters Work in hand

and shall send proofs very shortly.

I remain
Dear Sir
Yours very truly

F. von Stersom.

F. van Ostson
March 18. 1891

Philadelphia Pa.
256 N. 9th 9th & Thurs
18th March 91

Mr Shelley W. Denton
Brewsters Museum
Cambridge. Mass.

Dear Sir

I will send to morrow by Adams Express the 4 original drawings and Litho Copies, hoping they are satisfactory some slight alterations could be made if there are any.

Should Mr Brewster wish to send me some more drawings I would be glad if you could do so at your earliest convenience as I am just now free to go on with his work, will you please see whether the copies are the

right size, and let me know if they can be printed off at once (if approved off)

I remain
Dear Sir
Yours very truly
F. Von Stetson.

please let me know where to we have to send the copies. I suppose to Cambridge?

F. van Ilerson

April. 28. 1891.

Philadelphia Pa
C/o Ketterlinus Printing House
NW Cor of 4th and Arch Sts
2d April 91.

Mr Shelley W. Denton,
Brewsters Museum.
Cambridge Mass.

Dear Sir

Your favour of the 30th Ultimo to hand.

I enclose tracings of the four plates, may be they will suffice to facillitate Mr Brewster to arrange the lettering for the new set of plates, as I would like to send the lettering at the same time I send proofs of the plates

Anxious to hear from you
at your earliest convenience
I remain
Dear Sir
Yours very truly
P. Van Stavern.

P.S. Should these rough
tracings be of no use, then I
best waits till the drawings
on stone are ready, and I will
forward ~~them~~ the proofs with
originals –

F. van Ilersoo.

April 18. 1891.

Philadelphia Pa.
C/o Ketterlinus Printing House
N W cor 4th & Arch
18th April 91.

Mr. Shelley W. Denton.
Brewsters Museum
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Sir.

I send [illegible] copies of the 2d set of the plates of Birds by post, and will forward to morrow by Adams Express the original drawings.

I trust the Litbos are satisfactory. I have given every care to them the paper they are printed upon being hard for colouring does not lift so well, as it would if they were printed on soft paper, however this can not be helped. I have

attended to the Autographs of Mr Ridgway on the first sett, but it was impossible to lower the lettering on the oyster Catcher as it had been taken out once before and we would not have been able to print it at all if we had taken it out again, the surface of the stone gets lower when any thing is removed, they are printed (350) and look clean and sharp and will be forwarded.

Should Mr Brewster be pleased to send me some other drawings to do, I would be very glad to get them soon as I have a small office which I would not further occupy if no more drawings were to be done, and if possible beg of you to send me word by return of post whether I can expect more work or not - I hope you will pardon me for requesting this, but I am placed such that I must study every possible economy.

I remain
Dear Sir
Yours very truly
F. Bass Iterson.

F. von Iterson

April. 23. 1891.

Philadelphia Pa.
c/o Ketterlinus Printing House
N.W. Cor of 4th & Arch sts
23d of April 91

Mr Shelley W. Denton,
Brewsters Museum
Cambridge Mass.

Dear Sir.

I was very glad to receive Mr Brewster's letter a few days ago, and yours this morning as both letters were very encouraging towards my ~~p~~ prospects ~~of~~ for more work.

I was sorry however not to find a word in your letter in regard to a new set to be sent — as I am impatiently waiting to go on with your work. I could do them just now without,

being hurried. I expect an other job from Captain Rendier of Washington, and would not then be so free,

Mr Brewster may be sure that it is my interest to do everything in my power to perform my part of the work in every way satisfactory, and Mr Ketterlinus knows also the importance that his share in the work ought to be up to the mark. I have impressed upon him the harm he would do me if he does otherwise, and I must say that so far he does what I ask him,

the lettering of the second set was only forwarded for your approval as far as correctness and arrangements ~~was~~ concerned but will be uniform with the first set -

the Editions of the first set was shipped to day Mr Ketterlinus told me that they were not quite dry and had therefore not send them off before

may I ask of you to send me a ~~new~~ new set at your earliest convenience as I am just now doing nothing and as the English have it time is money.

I remain
Dear Sir
Yours very truly
F. von Stetten.

F. van Ilersoo

April. 29. 1891

Philadelphia Pa.
256. N.th 9th street
29th March 91

Mr. Shelley W. Denton,
Brewsters Museum
Cambridge Mass

Dear Sir:

Your favour and four new watercolour drawings safely recieved

Your remarks and corrections will be carefully attended to, and the paper will be as your sample for worded, well sized, so as to be fit for hand colouring.

We will also print 350 copies only of each plate as Mr. Brewster desires - at 135. Dollars for 1400 copies.

Will you kindly send lettering for the new plates - as we are going

on with the plates at once, we will send proofs of new plates before the Edition is printed — may I ask if I may reckon on some more plates after these ~~are~~ I have in hand are done. You spoke in your letter of 10 or 12 more. so still ~~to~~ 8 or 6 more to come I ask this on account of making my future arrangements and also on account of the paper which we would order so as to make sure of having all through the same quality,

recommending myself to Mr. Brewsters future favours

I remain

Dear Sir

Yours very truly

F. Ives Iverson.

I have been reading John Lothrop Motley's the life and death of John of oldenBarneveld, I noticed the name of a Gentleman mentioned in that splendid book by the name of William Brewster living at Leyden Holland nearly 3 centuries ago, and as I was born and raised at the town of Leyden I was naturally greatly interested ~~on~~, having now the privilege of doing some work for a Gentleman of the same name, I suppose our Mr. W. Brewster is a descendant? of this pioneers of the State of Massachusetts, pardon me for asking you this question, but I am somewhat curious to know.

V. I.